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SOURCE Nan-fang Jih-pao.

CHINESE COMMUNISTS PUSH CHING-CHIANG FLOOD DIVERSION PROJECT

The section of the Yangtze River below Chiang-ling (Ching-chou) and Sha-shih, in Hupeh, down to the vicinity of Ou-ch'ih-k'ou and Shih-shou, is known as the Ching-chiang section of the Yangtze River. Along the left side of this section is the existing large Ching-chiang dike. However, this dike does not give adequate protection to the fertile and densely populated areas north and east of this section of the river. Since it is highly advisable to reduce the volume of flood water that enters the Tung-t'ing Lake and that taxes the capacity and strength of the dikes around the periphery of this lake, it has been decided on the highest levels to undertake, with top priority, the Chiu-chiang Flood Diversion Project.

Besides raising and greatly strengthening the existing Ching-chiang dike, the main feature of this project is the creation of a huge retention basin by the construction of a dike that will encircle the whole area between the main channel of the Yangtze River in the Ching-chiang section and one of its branches, the Hu-tu Ho. The area to be enclosed is over 75 kilometers from north to south and will cover 921.34 square kilometers. An inlet lock is to be constructed at the north end near T'ai-p'ing-k'ou; and two discharge control locks are to be constructed, one above Ou-ch'ih-k'ou and the other near Huang-shan-t'ou. In addition, below-surface watergates are to be built at four points in the new dike along the east side of the Hu-tu Ho. These watergates can be used to control the admission or discharge of water according to circumstances.

The entrance lock, over 1,000 meters long, will be constructed of reinforced concrete with 54 gate openings fitted with mechanically operated bow-shaped doors.

The protection of the lives and livelihood of several millions of people in the immediate vicinity, and indirectly of a far larger number in adjoining regions, as well as the navigability of the Yangtze River, is at stake. Over 40,000 laborers are already at work at the south end of the project. The project must be finished before the flood season begins at the latter part of

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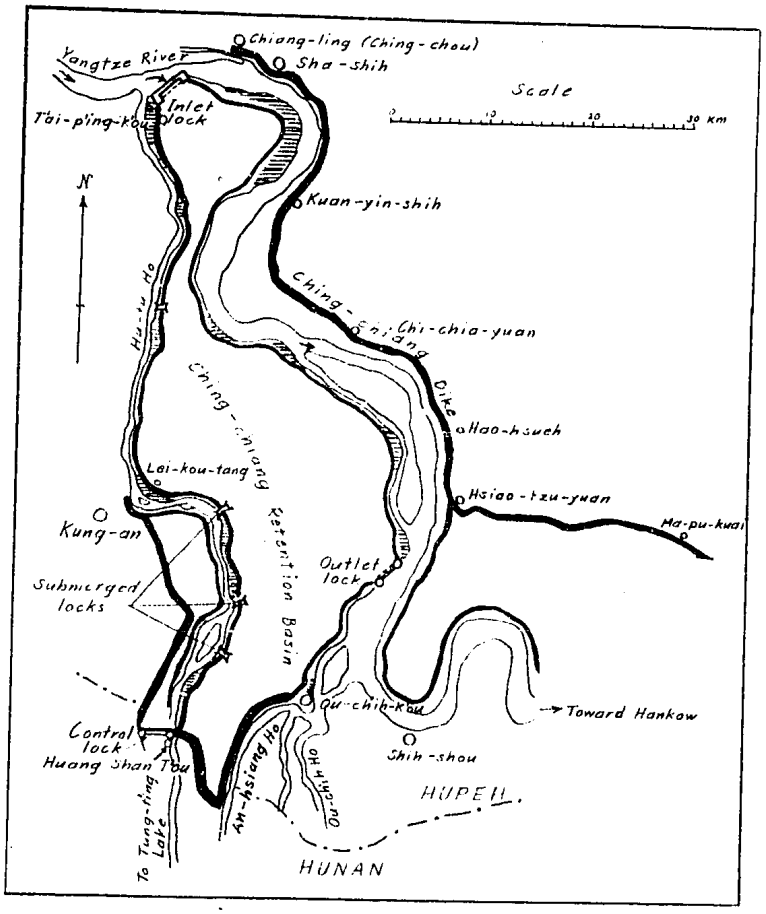
June. It is not planned to admit water to the retention basin in 1952 unless the danger of flood becomes extreme, and orders to do so are issued by the Premier of the People's Republic of China.

[Appended map follows:]

Diagram of Ching-chiang Flood Diversion Scheme



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